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crime, since nothing short of murder can affect in any practical manner the punishment to which he will be once more consigned if recaptured.

The real baseball season will open on Thursday, and as the opening day approaches the opinion becomes general that the club-owners have again made a grievous blunder and that they are starting out entirely too early. It is a mistake to play baseball in weather such as New-Yorkers had to put up with during the last two weeks. Of the few people who go to the ball grounds many are made ill and disgusted. The players are not benefited by outdoor work in such weather, and the coffers of the clubs are certainly not made any richer. May 1 is early enough for baseball, particularly in this part of the country, and the club-owners will probably realize this a year hence, October, at least up to the middle of the month, furnishes better weather than April. Few of the teams will enter the League race this year in really first-class condition, in spite of those expensive Southern trips.

It is to-day, according to the dispatches received from Shanghai, that China is to give her final answer to the demands of Japan. Inasmuch as the armistice was not to expire until a week hence, the sudden presentation of an ultimatum by the Mikado's Government, insisting upon an immediate acceptance or refusal of the terms offered to China as the price of peace, tends to confirm the reports pointing at a joint intervention by Russia, Great Britain and Germany. All three Powers are notoriously opposed to the concession of any Chinese territory on the mainland to Japan, and it is this knowledge without doubt that is encouraging Li Hung Chang and his fellow-plenipotentiaries at Simonski to resist the surrender of the Shink-King Peninsula. Realizing this, the Japanese have apparently decided to secure an immediate acceptance of their demands, and, failing that, to push forward to Peking without further delay, so as to secure possession of the capital before the foreign Powers have time to perfect their plans for concerted action in China's behalf. From Peking the Mikado will be able to proclaim his intention, not only to China, but also to Europe, with far more weight and prestige than from Simonski.

TO-DAY'S REUNION.

The weekly reunions in this city of Republican State Senators and Assemblymen who find it necessary to consult Mr. Platt as often as once a week as to what legislation is needed to carry out his ideas of reform have grown thin in numbers, but not yet fallen into innocuous desuetude. It is understood that there will be one to-day—a small and select gathering—at the usual place. We take leave to lay before them one or two suggestions.

And, first, we desire to call their attention to the fact that this is a large town very loosely governed; that under the existing police system, to the defects in which their attention has heretofore been called, the laws are not rigidly enforced on Sunday, and as a consequence gentlemen from the country are exposed to temptation. It has been something more than whispered that, on account of these temptations, and the susceptibility to them of statesmen who are not entirely superior to the frailties of poor human nature, it has sometimes happened that the usefulness of the Legislature has been impaired by the absence from its deliberations of some eminent lawgiver who has unbent himself with so much zeal that he was obliged to go into retirement for several days before he could regain a wholesome equilibrium for his stomach or the natural level of his head. There are objections to this sort of thing, originating in the domain of morals, which it is hardly worth while to urge upon the superior minds of statesmen who habitually dismiss such considerations as sickly emanations from the brains of a "gang of reformers"; but it occurs to us that, viewed purely as a business question, the practice of getting so drunk on Sunday as to disable one for duty for the rest of the week is objectionable. It isn't fair to the State, which pays for the statesman's services, or to his constituents, who have entrusted their interests to his keeping. And there may be times when it would have the effect to stop the wheels of legislation for lack of a quorum. That would involve unnecessary expense to the taxpayer. We hope, then, that no offense will be taken if we mildly suggest that the statesmen who have come down from Albany to imbibe wisdom at the fountain be a little careful about imbibing other things.

Another thing. If we have rightly understood the purpose of these Sunday gatherings, it has been to promote harmony in the Republican party of the State by keeping in close touch with Mr. Platt, who has been devoting all his energies now for many months to the herculean task of keeping the party together against the united efforts of Governor Morton, Mayor Strong, the Committee of Seventy and 154,000 voters to disrupt and destroy it altogether. If it be conceded that the success and perpetuity of the party are absolutely dependent upon the Legislature being in entire harmony with Mr. Platt, and the legislation of the session being in exact accord with his wishes and plans, the purpose was certainly praiseworthy. But it seems to us that these statesmen have too readily taken for granted. We can easily see how, in view of their relations to Mr. Platt reaching back to that gentleman's contributions to their campaign expenses of the State Committee's funds by his personal check, they may have erected him into an overshadowing importance to which he is hardly entitled. If they are only actuated by a sense of gratitude for past favors, it is not inexplicable that they should subordinate all other considerations to that one. But practical politicians are usually observant of existing conditions and prudently provident for their own future. From this point of view these gentlemen seem to have overlooked certain things in the present political situation, to which we take leave respectfully to call their attention.

Mr. Platt had the opportunity to put himself in accord with what any one who had ordinary powers of observation, and was not blinded by self-love, could see was the prevailing and overwhelming sentiment of the voters of this city and State. He did not do it. On the contrary, he put himself and arrayed his personal following in open antagonism to it. For the last three months he has been emphasizing his hostility to the measures of reform demanded by this universal public sentiment, and widening the breach between himself and followers and the mass of the party. At this moment he is at odds with Governor Morton, with Mayor Strong, with the Committee of Seventy, under whose auspices we elected a Republican Mayor, with the best-known and most influential Republicans in the city and State, and with all citizens of this town who desire deliverance from the abominable system of misgovernment under which they have been oppressed. More than that, the entire press of the city with a single exception is arrayed against him—even the newspaper which he counted on controlling having been driven by his unreasonable exactions and fatuous folly to abandon him. Is it possible that all these are in the wrong and Mr. Platt alone is right as to the duty of the Legislature and the nature of the legislation which this city needs? Is it party harmony these gentlemen are seeking? Have they observed the number and the character of the men against whom Mr. Platt has set up his individual will? Have they contrasted them with Mr. Platt's following?

On the whole—and with this suggestion we drop the subject—would not the statesmen who

hold their weekly reunion to-day do well to consider the feasibility of harmonizing with the rest of the party instead of with Mr. Platt? There are a great many more of them.

ANARCHISTS IN OFFICE.

Mr. E. B. Whitney, First Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, commenting upon the recent decision of the Supreme Court regarding the income tax, makes some extraordinary declarations, if a published interview is correct. He is reported as saying:

If the income tax should be eventually declared void, the remedy of the people is very plain. They can secure the passage of a constitutional amendment, wiping out the direct clause of the Constitution. . . . The rich are unduly favored, and the poor are unduly oppressed, by taxes upon articles of consumption, unless the wrong is rectified by an income tax. I believe, therefore, that ultimately we shall have a National income tax, whatever be the final decision of the court about this law.

Undoubtedly Mr. Whitney sets forth the only mode by which the kind of tax he wants can be secured. No matter what may be the decision of the court in the cases partly decided, Mr. Whitney must perform admit that the apportionment provision of the Constitution as to direct taxes does have some force. It does exclude, beyond a question, the direct taxation of property in its largest modern aggregations. If the end is desirable, if it is in the least true that just and equal taxation for the support of the National Government cannot be attained by indirect taxes, then unquestionably a constitutional amendment will be necessary to get at the sort of taxation Mr. Whitney advocates.

The Tribune does not believe it the part of a good citizen, and still less of a responsible law officer of the Government, to strive to stir up hatred and strife between the rich and the poor in this manner. It is a base and unworthy spirit, characteristic of demagogues of the lowest type, which labors to inflame the envy and passion of the many who have to live by their earnings against the few whose enterprise or good fortune has secured them income from capital. Civil society can never exist in peace and prosperity unless these two great forces, labor and capital, work harmoniously together. The man who would light the flames of war between them is essentially an Anarchist, and an enemy of public order, good government and the welfare of his fellowmen.

It is peculiarly unbecoming that a law officer of the Government should enter upon a crusade against one of the fundamental compromises of the Constitution. If, from the inception of the Government stipulated between the Federal and the State governments that the latter only should have the power of direct taxation, and this for the obvious reason that the people of each State can themselves best determine in what mode they wish their burdens to be equalized, a Federal law which would work equality and justice in New-York would work the grossest injustice in Texas, and vice versa. Infinitely better that the Federal Government, the people of each State know how a tax upon property affects different classes of citizens in that State, and whether it operates justly or not. The Federal Government was assigned by the Constitution an exclusive field of its own for revenue purposes, and it is simply revolutionary to attempt to break down the States by encroaching upon the only field left to them for the raising of such revenue as they need. The man who urges such a change is unfit to represent the Constitution of the United States as a law officer of the Government.

The contest is between the Republican principle of indirect taxation, by which the rich, who use imported goods largely, are compelled to pay for that luxury, and the Democratic theory, which taxes sugar and whiskey and rents and incomes in order to make diamonds free and to lower the duties on leeks and satins, kid gloves and fine woolsens. When the Republican principle controls taxation the wealthy citizen pays largely, because he chooses to buy foreign-made luxuries, while the poorer people get the full benefit of competition between domestic manufacturers in the cheaper goods. But the Democratic policy has taken off \$70,000,000 of the taxes on whiskey and sugar expected to yield \$70,000,000, thereby directly burdening the millions who labor, and as a poor pretence of equalization imposes an unconstitutional tax on business.

QUARANTINE FOR CONSUMPTION.

The necessity for establishing a rigorous quarantine against yellow fever, cholera, smallpox and other contagious diseases is generally recognized. The expediency of adopting similar measures for the control and extirpation of scourges like pulmonary tuberculosis is, strangely enough, not even a controversial question. When Yellow Jack unfurls his flag in Florida or Georgia there is consternation, and the Quarantine authorities are censured for relaxing necessary precautions and safeguards. But when season after season, year in and year out, pulmonary consumption is a scourge in nearly every section of the country and nothing is done about it. In many localities this single disease causes at least one-sixth of the aggregate number of deaths yet, appalling as the mortality is, the health boards and the medical profession seem to be incapable of taking a resolute stand and making a determined fight against consumption. With all the advances of medical science this dread disease has continued its ravages, and all measures for dealing with it and diminishing the mortality rate have proved unavailing.

Dr. Nathan Nutting, in a very able article in "The North American Journal of Homoeopathy," offers as an explanation of this inaction and apathy the widely prevalent opinion that tuberculosis is hereditary. He considers this theory undoubtedly erroneous, and contends that it would be safer to assert that the predisposition to the disease, rather than tuberculosis itself, may be inherited. The distinction is an important one, because it opens the way for consideration of climatic influences and quarantine measures as agencies for the extirpation of the disease. So long as it was the generally accepted theory that consumption was an inherited disease, it was regarded as a necessary evil. As soon as the fact was established that it was a contagious disease, which would be contracted by patients either without hereditary taint or with only a predisposition for it, the necessity for a radical change in methods of treating it was apparent. The most eminent practical sanitary experts now agree that measures for isolating patients and systematically disinfecting their rooms are indispensable.

If consumption be a contagious disease, as is now generally admitted by the most scientific men of the medical profession, it is a natural inference that something like a National quarantine against it is essential. This is the burden of Dr. Nutting's paper. Assuming that the only method of treatment which has met with any measure of success is climatic relief afforded by a dry atmosphere, an equable temperature and the possibility of outdoor life, he accepts the conclusions of a committee appointed by the Medical Congress of France in 1888, to the effect that the Rio Grande valley of Central New-Mexico is a locality wherein the conditions for convalescence are found in the highest degree, only one other district, a comparatively small territory in Northern Africa, comparing favorably with it. His idea is that the time is not far distant when consumption will be declared an infectious disease, and measures be taken to provide a National as well as a local quarantine.

and that New-Mexico fulfils all the requirements of the problem.

Dr. Nutting forecasts systematic enforcement of State laws against consumption, and the removal of patients to such a quarantine ground as he proposes, where the cottage plan may be substituted for hospitals and sanitariums and suitable open-air employment enjoined upon all. He even advocates Government assistance to involuntary exiles afflicted with consumption, and measures for compelling patients thus quarantined to remain permanently where they can take to regain and retain health and at the same time cease to be agents in spreading infection. While we are not prepared to advocate so radical a plan in all its details, we commend Dr. Nutting's paper to the serious attention of the medical profession. What is indisputable is the fact that moisture is the arch-enemy of the consumptive patient, and that the process of germ propagation can only be arrested in a dry atmosphere, where the changes of temperature are slight. What is also incontrovertible is the terrible mortality from consumption in a large portion of the civilized world.

THE DEBT FROM MATERIALISM.

To many people, doubtless, Easter means little more than a new scarf or a modish bonnet. Others, for whom the day has a somewhat deeper meaning, are, nevertheless, far from apprehending the doctrine of a carnal resurrection which many Christians suppose it to teach. Science has declared that doctrine to be utterly untenable, and even the clergy to-day, with a few exceptions, no longer preach it. In the churches this morning there will be much said about "the blessed hope of immortality"; but we doubt if a single preacher will declare that the atoms of the identical physical body that was laid in the grave will be brought together again and dowered with an immortal existence. It is a conception entirely foreign to the spirit of the age; and, in the long run, the Church must always take account of the spirit of the age.

This is not to say, however, that the Festival of the Resurrection is being emptied of its meaning; on the contrary, its essential teaching is coming to be more widely recognized than ever before. Not so much because of any new access of faith in the theology of Easter as because of a most interesting tendency of thought at work outside of theology. A few years ago materialism seemed to be carrying everything before it. It is doing so no longer. It is becoming discredited in the house of its friends. Mr. Balfour, himself once a reputed agnostic if not materialist, has just turned upon it the terrible inquiry of science, its supposed godfather, and has riddled its defenses full of holes. Nor is Mr. Balfour the only champion of a divine Fatherhood as against materialism. Mr. Herbert Spencer has disclaimed the materialist teachings supposed to be found in his earlier works. Mr. Huxley has poured the vials of his biting scorn on the doctrine, asserting that science has disproved the existence of a God, and has defined agnosticism in such a way that any Christian might conceivably accept it. Professor Forsterich declares infidelity to be a "scientific fetish." Weisman has declared design to be the only alternative to natural selection. Lord Kelvin accepts the alternative, and says the universe shows "overpoweringly strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design." Mr. Benjamin Kidd rebukes certain scientists for belittling religion, and approvingly quotes Goethe's definition of religion as "the deepest, nay, the one theme of the world's history, to which all others are subordinate."

And Lord Salisbury, not long ago, as a representative of the Royal Society, "conveyed the voice of English science" in the declaration that the greatest danger of scientific speculation is "the acceptance of mere conjecture in the name of science, and of knowledge in preference to making 'frankly the admission that no certain knowledge can be attained.' To refer again to Professor Huxley, his dictum that all science starts with 'assumptions that are unproved, while they may 'be, and often are, erroneous,' is coming to be recognized as a fundamental postulate of science. Is it necessary to point out how this swing of the scientific pendulum affects such a doctrine as that of the resurrection? Surely not. Men may drift away, as indeed they are doing, from the crude medieval conceptions of a life beyond the grave. Much even that is today taught in the churches about the resurrection life may be worn away through attrition with the questioning thoughts of humanity. But so long as science is left in men's theories and speculations for the idea of an intelligent First Cause, there will be room in men's hearts for the hope of immortality. The time may never come when science will assert immortality as a necessary dogma. But it is doing something far more helpful than that; it is declaring that beyond the utmost confines of its knowledge lies the source of all that is, which can only be apprehended by the intuitions of faith. Not the Christian only to-day, but reverent science it is, which puts forth the cry of the poet:

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust;
Thou madest man, he knows not why;
He thinks he was not made to die;
And Thou hast made him; Thou art just.

NO POLITICS IN THE BRIDGE.

It appears that after the close of the hearing in reference to the new East River Bridge bill on Thursday, it was amended by the Assembly committee in a way not at all to the liking of the authors of the measure and certain to arouse strong opposition on the part of nine-tenths of the people interested. As originally drawn, the bill provided for the appointment of three bridge commissioners by the Mayor of New York and three by the Mayor of Brooklyn, and the two Mayors were to be members of the commission ex-officio. As amended, it provides that two commissioners shall be named by the Mayor and Controller of this city, two by the like officials of Brooklyn and three by the Governor of the State.

Every clear-sighted and intelligent citizen will at once perceive that this is a plan to put the control of the proposed bridge in the hands of Platt and Worth on one hand and of Tammany Hall on the other. It is a grab, pure and simple; of the same nature as the scheme engineered by Worth for seizing the Kings County Department of Charities. The plan assumes, of course, that Platt has sufficient influence with the Governor to secure the appointment of men acceptable to him; the Brooklyn Controller is a Worth man as absolutely as the Sheriff and County Clerk, on whom Worth relies to make him Charities Commissioner in case of the enactment of the pending Charities bill; and the New-York Controller has shown no reluctance to take orders from Tammany Hall.

Surely this is not what the people of New-York and Brooklyn want. They want another bridge, but they do not want one with a large political attachment. Furthermore, as this is purely a matter affecting the cities, there is no conceivable reason why any commissioners should be appointed by the head of the State Government—no reason, that is, that will bear examination by honest and upright men. The Tribune is heartily in favor of another East River bridge; of as many more as are shown to be necessary or desirable; but we do not want to see the history of the present Brooklyn Bridge duplicated. Give us an honest, straightforward board of commissioners, who will build the bridge in the same manner as if they were engaged in a private enterprise, or let us have no bridge at all. A Platt-Worth-Tammany Commission would be a perennial source of scandal and a perpetual

disgrace to the communities affected. The people want a bridge, but they want one without any taint of politics and jobbery about it.

THE AQUEDUCT BICYCLE ROAD.

The scheme of making a bicycle road along the crest of the old Croton Aqueduct appears more attractive and more feasible the more it is considered. Its attractiveness, indeed, is beyond all question and all expression. A broad, level road, free from dust and mud, directly connected at this end with the parks and boulevards of the city, and extending northward for forty miles through the loveliest scenes this quarter of the world affords—nothing could appeal more strongly to every wheelman worthy of the name. As for the feasibility of it, that seems as little open to question. There has been much discussion of it, but so far as we have observed or been able to ascertain, not a single argument of serious import has been made against it. Some action by the Legislature, however, is necessary before the whole extent of the aqueduct can thus be used. A bill to that effect has been introduced at Albany. We do not know that there is the slightest opposition to it. But wheelmen will do well to bring all possible influence to bear upon the Legislature for its speedy passage. We are fast approaching the best bicycling season of the year, and this magnificent road should be made available without a day's delay.

In the mean time, why cannot immediate action be taken by the city authorities on that part of the route lying within the city limits? It ought not to be necessary to wait for legislative action so far as it is concerned. And it is the part of the whole path that will naturally be most used. From the corner of Macomb's Dam Road and One-hundred-and-seventy-seventh St. to the upper border of Van Cortlandt Park—the New-York and Yonkers boundary line—is a splendid run of about four and a half miles. It does not need making into a bicycle road. It is already made. It is level as a house floor; fifteen to twenty feet wide, the sides supported by massive retaining walls; the surface covered with smooth, firm turf or hard beaten clay. Nothing is needed but the removal of a few useless walls and fences. A couple of men could clear them all off, from end to end, in a day or two. That done, there would be an unmatched highway for the wheelmen of Greater New-York. If the city officers will say the word, and the wheelmen themselves bestir themselves, the present week may see the whole thing accomplished.

The promoters of the new Manhattan Athletic Club deserve little praise. The main object of the club at present seems to be to sell liquor and to encourage prize-fighting.

The Governor of Arkansas, who spat in a fellow-statesman's face the other day, has been fined \$50 for carrying concealed weapons. It is all right to call the Governor's mouth a weapon, but the implication that it was a concealed one borders somewhat upon the ludicrously extravagant.

The growing sentiment in favor of cremation as a means of disposing of the dead has encountered a serious obstacle in Philadelphia, where Judge Michael Arnold, speaking as Grand Master of the order in Pennsylvania, has decided that funeral services over the ashes of a cremated person do not constitute a Christian burial under the Masonic law. The question arose in the case of a Mason whose earnest desire was that his remains should be cremated, and it is significant of Masonic influence that his family decided to disregard his wishes in the matter rather than violate the spirit and ritual of the order to which he belonged. It is unfortunate for the cause of funeral reform that cremation is thus opposed by an order of such character and influence. The approval of the craft would have added enormously to the advance of a commendable movement, and its disapproval will necessarily retard it in equal degree.

An ossified but living man from Kentucky is now visiting in Washington, and he isn't the one who is in the Treasury Department, either.

If the only and original author of the income tax measure will now kindly disclose his identity he will receive a slight token of recognition in the form of the vigorous execration of his fellow-countrymen. An indignant people are getting up clubs for him all over the country.

According to American, English and French ethics of international law, the British steamer Yikazun, which has just been seized by the Japanese near Taku, flying the British flag and freighted in part with cartridges for the Chinese Army, is a fair prize, and will assuredly be condemned as such by the Japanese prize court, without any possibility of any redress on the part of the English owners or charterers. From the moment that war was declared, the Chinese merchants having but a sorry faith in the protection afforded by their own flag, transferred all the ships which they owned or held by charter to the British flag, with the object of thereby escaping capture by the Japanese cruisers, which, ever since the beginning of hostilities, have been hovering along the coast. The French are especially severe with regard to such transfers, which they only regard as bona fide if made prior to the declaration of war, condemning all transferred afterward as prizes in the event of capture. Great Britain and the United States show more leniency in the matter, and only condemn as prizes vessels formerly owned by the enemy but now sailing under neutral flags when there is evidence that the transfer has been of a fraudulent character or when the ship is found to be carrying contraband of war. It is understood that the Japanese Government has decided to adopt the American procedure for her prize courts, and no one can deny that she has hitherto displayed a most praiseworthy moderation and even patience in dealing with these Chinese-owned and chartered vessels sailing under the British flag.

The political firm of Platt, Worth, Payn & Co. expects to be able to announce in the near future that Governor Morton has been admitted to partnership and has furnished a large amount of capital. The people won't believe the statement until they see the articles.

Secretary Morton is on the wrong track in his search for the causes that have forced the oppressive increase in the price of beef. Instead of sending out to the Western ranches to see if it is due to any great shrinkage in the cattle crop, his agents should have stopped right in Chicago, where they would have found that the advance in prices was caused by the inordinate and highly organized greed of the monopolists who control the beef market.

The indecision of the Supreme Court should not be construed to mean that the Constitution of the United States is missing. It was the Indian, not the wigwag, that was lost, the noble red man to the contrary notwithstanding.

British protection is a costly privilege, as Egypt and so many of the semi-independent Indian sovereignties have found. Zanzibar is destined to prove no exception to the rule. For the English Government, which has just undertaken to pay to the liquidators of the now defunct British East Africa Company \$1,250,000 in return for the surrender of all the assets of the ill-fated enterprise, insists that of this sum the Sultan of Zanzibar shall contribute no less than \$1,000,000, in consideration of which amount some totally useless territories on the mainland over which he formerly exercised a merely mythical sway, and which he had ceded to the chartered

company for a nominal annual payment, are to be restored to him. In short, it is the Sultan who is now being compelled to stand the losses of a company in which members of the British royal family, as well as of the Government and of the aristocracy, were financially interested.

It takes more than good ball players to make a profitable baseball club.

PERSONAL.

The Mayor-elect of Superior, Wis., is the Rev. C. S. Starkweather, an Episcopal clergyman. He is a man of wealth and culture, until recently rector of the Church of the Redeemer, in Superior, a few years ago he came near being elected bishop of Wisconsin. He has entered public life because he thinks he can do some good in public life. Two years ago he was elected an Alderman. He is doubtful whether he will ever again take a parish charge.

Dean Hole thinks English women are more beautiful than American women. The good Dean may be familiar with the "Filloque" controversy, and may know all about the culture of roses. But as a judge of female beauty he is not in it a whit.

Dr. Arnold C. Hawes died last Sunday at his home in Noroton Heights, Conn., of debility and heart failure at the advanced age of eighty-one. He was born in Wrentham, Mass., November 8, 1813, and came of Revolutionary stock. His grandfather started from his bedside three hours before daybreak to take part in the battle of Lexington and was never heard from afterward. Dr. Hawes spent early in life in active business pursuits, and in 1838 began the practice of dentistry in Pawtucket, R. I., moving in 1840 to Providence, where the firm of Hawes, Brother